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**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims in the application are requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 12 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC 112/2 as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

Applicant notes the allowance of claims 4, 8-11, 13 and 15-21.

Applicant has amended Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 12 and 14 to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112/2.

The specification and drawing have been amended to conform the reference characters to the specification.

Now turning to the rejections, applicant responds to the rejection of the indicated claims as follows:

A. Regarding Claim 1:

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to define the term “receiver” as a “guard band receiver” protecting the interruption in the guard band causing a trigger circuit to generate a signal, as described in the specification at page 9, lines 6-13. Applicants submit that the amendment of Claim 1 clarifies the function of the guard band receiver and its operation, and overcomes the rejection under 35 USC 112/2. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 and allowance thereof are requested.

B. Regarding Claims 5, 12 and 14:

Claims 5, 12 and 14 describe climatic sensors which detect rain and dust conditions which could interrupt the guard band beam and cause shut down of the main laser, as described in the specification at page 10, lines 1-12. Specifically, the sensor beams upon detecting a climatic condition, i.e., dust or rain, provide a signal to the trigger circuit not to

activate the return laser, which would otherwise occur when the guard band beam was interrupted.

Applicants have amended Claims 5, 12 and 14 to define climatic condition as dust, rain and other environmental elements, which further clarifies the climatic conditions. In any case, Applicants submit that terms “sensor means and climatic conditions” are well understood and do not render Claims 5, 12 and 14 indefinite.

Withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 5, 12 and 14 under 35 USC 112/2 and allowance thereof are requested.

C. Regarding Claim 6:

Claim 6 has been amended to indicate the sensing function is performed by the parallel receivers and the trigger circuit generates a trigger signal to the return signal laser to shutdown or modify the signal level of the laser beam, as described in the specification at page 9, lines 6-13.

Applicant submits the amendment of Claim 6 clarifies the sensing and triggering functions and overcomes the rejection under 35 USC 112/2.

Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 6 and allowance thereof are requested.

D. Regarding Claim 7:

Claim 7 has been amended to indicate that the buffer circuit is coupled to the laser and receives the input signal to the laser when the return signal is provided by the return laser to shut down or modify the signal level of the laser beam, as described in the specification at page 9, lines 14-23.

Applicants submit that the amendment of Claim 7 clarifies the operation of the buffer circuit and overcomes the rejection under 35 USC 112/2.

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Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 7 and allowance thereof are requested.

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**CONCLUSIONS:**

Having amended the specification and drawing to conform to one another; amended Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 12 and 14 to clarify the laser system and climatic conditions described in the claims thereby overcoming the rejections under 35 USC 112/2, applicants request entry of the amendment, allowance of Claims 1- 21, and passage to issue of the case.

**AUTHORIZATION:**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or insufficient fees or credit any payment or overpayment associated with this application to IBM Deposit Account No. 09-0452, Order No. BOC919990075 (1963-7376).

Respectfully submitted,

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